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Page 2: SURVEY ON THE A.C.T. BUDGET 2018-19 PRESENTED BY THE A.C.T. GOVERNMENT ON 5 JUNE 2018

Q1 Full name of group/organisation:

National Seniors

Q2 Contact person for this survey:

Name	**Brendon Radford**
Email Address	**policy@nationalseniors.com.au**
Phone Number	[redacted]

Q3 Please provide a brief overview of your organisation/group and its purpose:

National Seniors Australia is a not-for-profit organisation that gives voice to issues that affect Australians aged 50 years and over. It is the largest membership organisation of its type in Australia with more than 130,000 members and is the fourth largest in the world.

Q4 Has your organisation/group developed a written analysis of the ACT Budget that it would like to submit to the Committee?

No

Q5 Please list and provide details of your three key priority areas regarding the ACT Budget 2018-2019:

Welcome the $50 increase in the utilities concession to $654 a year.

Welcome the removal of the income threshold in the General Rates Aged Deferral Scheme, which will allow Canberrans over 65 with at least 75 per cent equity in their home, to defer their rate payments until after their home is sold.

Welcome the funding to create a Seniors Rights Service through Legal Aid to support older people experiencing or at risk of elder abuse.

Q6 Are there any other particular issues with the 2018-19 ACT Budget that you would like to bring to the Committee's attention (which are not included in your three priority areas)?	**Yes,** If yes, please comment:: Welcome the extra funding for hospitals and extra places for the Hospital in the Home program. Welcome funding for municipal amenities to improve the appearance of the capital.
Q7 Did you provide a pre-budget submission to the ACT Government for 2018-19?	**Yes**
Q8 Has the 2018-19 ACT Budget addressed the issues raised in your pre-budget submission?	**No/Partially,** If No/Partially please comment:: Yes Increased utilities rebate goes someway to addressing our call for greater concessions given spirally energy prices last year. Extra funding for municipal services was something that we had called for in our budget submission. No No further action on retirement villages legislation No further incentives to downsizing (however we note the ongoing review of planning laws through the housing choices consultation). No moves to mandate universal design principles. No initiatives to improve the way that public services deal with older residents and to ensure that offline access to services continues
Q9 Does your organisation/group wish to provide its views in a Committee public hearing on Friday 15 June 2018, at the Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra?	**Yes**